

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 USIE-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 CU-02 SIL-01

LAB-04 A-01 OPR-02 SY-05 OC-06 CCO-00 EB-07

COME-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 DHA-02 MCT-01 /095 W

-----171656Z 116383 /41

O R 171600Z JUN 77

FM AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6291

INFO AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PINS, SF

SUBJECT: SITUATION REPORT FOR JUNE 17

REF: CAPE TOWN 1000

SUMMARY: GENERALLY PEACEFUL OBSERVANCE OF YESTERDAY'S ANNI-
VERSARY OF SOWETO RIOTS WAS MARRED BY SHOOTING INCIDENTS LAST
EVENING IN WHICH 9 PEOPLE INJURED IN JOHANNESBURG AND 2 IN
UITENHAGE (NEAR PORT ELIZABETH). OVER 100 PERSONS WERE REPORTED
ARRESTED IN DEMONSTRATION IN UITENHAGE AND 23 IN PORT ELIZABETH.
MOST URBAN TOWNSHIPS WERE REPORTED CALM AS OF MID-DAY (JUNE 17)
WHILE SOWETO WORK BOYCOTT APPARENTLY BROKEN WITH WORKER AT-
TENDANCE REPORTED AS NEAR NORMAL. LATE NEWS REPORT INDICATES
FURTHER RIOTING IN UITENHAGE TODAY WITH THREE MORE SHOT AND
TWO PERSONS KILLED IN FIRE. END SUMMARY

1. CAPE TOWN - THERE WERE NO REPORTS OF REPRISALS AGAINST

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WORKERS RETURNING TO TOWNSHIPS LAST EVENING. THE WORK SITUA-
TION TODAY WAS AGAIN VIRTUALLY NORMAL. ONLY A FEW INCIDENTS
OF STONE-THROWING WERE REPORTED IN TOWNSHIPS. MANY BUSINESSES
IN BLACK TOWNSHIPS CLOSED AGAIN TODAY AND SCHOOL ATTENDANCE
ESTIMATED TO RANGE FROM 50 TO 75 PERCENT. IN OTHER AREAS
BUSINESS AND SCHOOLS OPERATED NORMALLY ALTHOUGH SOME WHITE
SCHOOLS, ACTING ON ADVICE OF PROVINCIAL DEPARTMENT OF EDUCA-

TION, INSTITUTED NIGHT PATROLS AS PROTECTIVE MEASURE AGAINST "POSSIBLE ATTACKS." A MEETING TO HAVE BEEN ADDRESSED BY THE REV. DAVID RUSSELL AT UNIVERSITY OF CAPE TOWN YESTERDAY WAS BANNED BY LOCAL MAGISTRATE.

2. EASTERN CAPE - IN UITENHAGE, NEAR PORT ELIZABETH, POLICE LAST NIGHT FIRES ON STONE-THROWING CROWDS, INJURING 2. OVER 100 WERE REPORTEDLY ARRESTED. BANTU AFFAIRS ADMINISTRATION BOARD OFFICES IN ONE TOWNSHIP WERE BURNED WITH DAMAGE ESTIMATED AT SEVERAL THOUSAND RAND. TWENTY-THREE WERE ARRESTED LAST NIGHT IN PORT ELIZABETH FOR TAKING PART IN "ILLEGAL GATHERING." AT MID-DAY TODAY TOWNSHIPS WERE REPORTED QUIET. A NEWS REPORT RECEIVED AS THIS CABLE BEING DRAFTED INDICATES THERE WAS FURTHER RIOTING IN UITENHAGE THIS MORNING WITH THREE MORE PEOPLE SHOT BY POLICE. POLICE SAID 2 LOOTERS WERE BURNED TO DEATH IN BOTTLE STORE FIRE. ADDITIONAL BAAB FACILITIES INCLUDING BOTTLE STORE AND BEERHALL WERE BURNED WITH PROPERTY DAMAGE NOW ESTIMATED TO EXCEED R1 MILLION.

3. DURBAN - NATAL WAS GENERALLY QUIET ON THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE SOWETO DISTURBANCES (JUNE 16). THE POLICE DETAINED FOUR WHITE STUDENTS FROM THE UNIVERSITY OF NATAL WHO WERE DISTRIBUTING PAMPHLETS AT A SHOPPING CENTER. THE POLICE ALSO RAIDED SRC OFFICES AT THE UNIVERSITY AND CONFISCATED 300 COPIES OF A PAMPHLET ENTITLED "SO WHERE TO?" IN PIETERMARITZBURG A LONE BLACK DEMONSTRATOR, MR. D. MATIWANE, WHOM THE PRESS IDENTIFIED AS A FORMER ANC MEMBER WHO HAD BEEN DETAINED BY THE POLICE IN 1960, WAS PREVENTED BY POLICE FROM MARCHING WITH A PLACARD SUPPORTING THE BLACK STUDENTS. SCHOOLS WERE CLOSED IN UMLAZI LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TOWNSHIP YESTERDAY, AT THE REQUEST OF THE PRINCIPALS AS PRECAUTION AGAINST POSSIBLE UNREST. THEY ARE TO REMAIN CLOSED UNTIL MONDAY, JUNE 20. HOWEVER, SCHOOLS IN KWAMASHU, THE OTHER LARGE BLACK TOWNSHIP OUTSIDE DURBAN REMAINED OPEN. A FRIEND AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ZULULAND TOLD A CONGEN OFFICER THAT THE UNIVERSITY WAS QUIET ON JUNE 16. A COMMEMORATIVE RELIGIOUS SERVICE WAS HELD AND MANY STUDENTS WERE DRESSED IN MOURNING IN MEMORY OF THOSE KILLED IN THE 1976 RIOTS.

4. JOHANNESBURG - POLICE OPENED FIRE ON GROUP OF ROCK-THROWING YOUTHS LATE YESTERDAY AFTERNOON, WOUNDING NINE. UNTIL THEN, SOWETO HAD SURVIVED WITHOUT MAJOR INCIDENT ALTHOUGH POLICE WERE CLEARLY INDISCRIMINATE IN THEIR USE OF TEARGAS. SHOOTING INCIDENT BEGAN WHEN POLICE BEGAN REMOVING BARRICADE FROM STREET AND CAME UNDER HEAVY ROCK-THROWING ATTACK. POLICE RESPONDED WITH GUNFIRE, FIRING 32 SHOTS IN REPLY. NINE REPORTED WOUNDED. POLICE WERE AGGRESSIVE IN THEIR USE OF TEARGAS, FIRING INTO CROWDS, AND OCCASSIONALLY, HOUSES IN AN APPARENT INDISCRIMINATE MANNER. PRESS REPORTS INCIDENTS

WHERE POLICE AIMED TEARGAS CANNISTER AT INDIVIDUALS AND FIRED AT SHORT RANGE. SEVERAL PEOPLE REPORTED TAKEN TO HOSPITAL WITH TEARGAS BURNS. SOWETO STAY-AWAY APPARENTLY BROKEN AS NEAR NORMAL WORKER ATTENDANCE REPORTED TODAY. AS OF LATE AFTERNOON, SOWETO REPORTEDLY REMAIN "TENSE" WITH POLICE OUT IN FORCE AND CONTINUING TO USE TEARGAS LIBERALLY TO BREAK UP CROWDS OF YOUTHS.

5. PRETORIA - JUNE 16 SAW SMALL DEMONSTRATIONS AND SCATTERED INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE IN PRETORIA TOWNSHIPS. IN MAMELODI, MARCH BY ESTIMATED 3,000 STUDENTS IN AFTERNOON WAS BROKEN UP WITH TEARGAS BUT THERE WERE NO REPORTED INJURIES. EARLY IN MORNING, PRESS REPORTS THAT GA-RANKUWA HAD FIVE BUSES STONED AND ONE DISABLED BY FIRE. ALSO, PETROL BOMB WAS THROWN IN WINDOW OF TRAIN NEAR GA-RANKUWA INJURING ONE MAN. ATTERIDGE-VILLE HAD NO REPORTED INCIDENTS OF VIOLENCE, BUT THERE WERE SEVERAL MEMORIAL SERVICES AND ONE SMALL DEMONSTRATION MARCH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF ABOUT 50 STUDENTS SINGING FREEDOM SONGS. CONSENSUS IS THAT WORK STAY-AWAY WAS NOT ENFORCED AND 70-80 PERCENT OF BLACKS SHOWED UP ON JOB. TODAY, IT APPEARS THAT ALMOST ALL PERSONS ARE BACK TO WORK. EMBASSY LOCAL EMPLOYEES, MOST OF WHOM WERE ABSENT YESTERDAY, ARE ALLIN. PRESS REPORTS THAT TURFLOOP UNIVERSITY HAS POLICE PRESENT ON CAMPUS AFTER ANOTHER ATTEMPT AT ARSON, THIS TIME AGAINST THE POST OFFICE. CLASSES ARE STILL BEING BOYCOTTED BUT CAMPUS I REPORTEDLY QUIET. PIETERSBURG RESIDENT TOLD EMBOFF THAT UNIVERSYT'S DECISION LAST WEEK TO LET STUDENTS ELECT AN SRC, FIRST SINCE DISTURBANCES OF 1974, HAS MOLLIFIED THEM FOR MOMENT BUT MOOD IS STILL NASTY AND CAMPUS IS TENSE. ONE RESIDENT REPORTS THAT CERTAIN SHOPS STAYED OPEN IN TOWNSHIPS AND POLICE PROVIDED PROTECTION FROM GATHERING CROWDS OF STUDENTS THROUGHOUT THE DAY. APPARENTLY, IN ONE CASE, SHOP OWNER WAS GIVEN WALKIE-TALKIE AND CALLED POLICE EVERY TIME SMALL CROWD GATHERED. COMMENT: PRETORIA GOT THROUGH JUNE 16 RELATIVELY PEACEFULLY. HOWEVER, EMBASSY SOURCES FEEL IF BLOW-UP IS TO COME, IT WILL BE ON WEEKEND WHEN PERSONS ARE HOME FROM WORK, MANY ARE DRINKING, AND POTENTIAL FOR CONFRONTATION WITH STUDENTS GREATER. FACT THAT POLICE DID STICK BY PROMISE TO PROTECT BUSINESSES THAT STAYED OPEN HAS LEFT FEELING OF BITTERNESS TOWARDS THOSE PROPRIETORS AND THERE ARE FEARS THAT SHOPS ARE NOW MARKED FOR DESTRUCTION.BOWDLER

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